only means of effectively attaining that object. Many of the ancient schools of Malayala Brahmins had already disappeared and their properties had become merged in the State. He, therefore, prayed that special English schools for Malayala Brahmins should be established in each taluk, and that Vedas and Sastras should be prescribed for optional study in those schools.

Dewan's reply.—The report of the Educational Expenditure Committee has dealt with the point raised by the Member, *viz.*, whether special schools should be opened for particular communities. The question will be considered at the Conference.

119. Grievances of the Tamilians and the improvement of Tamil Education.

Mr. S. Ganapati Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) referred to the various authorities, historical, linguistic and otherwise, to prove that Tamil had been the prevailing language in this country from time immemorial. Tamil was the early language of the land and Malayalam took its place only in very recent times. The Member did not wish that the old order must be revived and Tamil should be made the language of the State, but he urged upon Government the need for Tamil being given the same or equal consideration as Malayalam. At present, Tamil schools existed only in Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel and Shencottah, and there was no Tamil school at all in any of the other Tamil taluks. That was not fair. The Tamil population in the other taluks would certainly justify the opening of Tamil schools. In the absence of Tamil schools, parents were forced to send their children to Malayalam schools. In the town of Trivandrum, the Tamil population numbered 20,983. There was not even a single Tamil school to serve such a large population. He, therefore, requested that Tamil schools be opened at once in Kalkulam, Vilavankod, Neyyattinkara, Trivandrum, Pattanapuram, Quilon, Devicolam, Peermade and Alleppey, and stated that the number of Tamil schools should be commensurate with the requirements of each locality and that they should be located in places where Tamilians lived in large numbers. Owing to the continued encouragement given to Malayalam schools during the recent years and the cold neglect shown to Tamil by departmental officers whose vernacular was Malayalam, Tamil education did not spread to the required extent. With an Inspectorate sympathetically disposed towards Tamil education, the evil could be remedied. The policy of the department should be to open one or two classes to begin with and then to gradually increase their number in accordance with the demand therefor.

In Agastisvaram, the total number of students attending lower grade vernacular schools was 1,193, of whom Tamil was the mother-tongue of 1,100. For serving the small remainder of 93 non-Tamil students, one Malayalam school had been opened at Suchindram. That was unnecessary and should be converted into a Tamil school. In the Eraniel taluk, one higher grade vernacular school at Eraniel and four lower grade vernacular schools at Vempannur, Midalam, Tiruvitamcode and Nattalam, were Malayalam schools. Whatever might be the reasons for the 4 schools at Eraniel, Vempannur, Midalam and Nattalam, the Mahommedans of Tiruvitamcode would certainly prefer Tamil to Malayalam. The question of converting this Tiruvitamcode school into a Tamil one was a matter which required immediate investigation. Again in the Tovala taluk, the total Malayalam-speaking population was 299. To serve a 15 per cent. of that number which was the ratio of the school-going population, *minus* those attending English schools, there were 4 Malayalam schools which on the very face of it were unnecessary. In Agastisvaram with a Malayalam population of 2,176, and 202 pupils whose mother tongue was not Tamil, there were 8 Malayalam schools. In Shencottah the Malayalam population was 398, for which there were 9 Malayalam schools, and of the total number of 1904 students in all the 18 schools of this taluk, the mother-tongue of 1,900 was Tamil. That was anomalous. The Member also drew the pointed attention of Government to the fact that, while all the private aided schools in the Tamil taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram and Shencottah were purely Tamil, it was the Government that conducted 4 Malayalam schools in Tovala, 8 in Agastisvaram and 9 in Shencottah. That showed that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the people of those taluks, left to themselves, opened only Tamil schools, while the department, in spite of the obvious fact of there being no demand on the part of the people for Malayalam schools, conducted as many as 21 departmental Malayalam schools in these three taluks. He, therefore, strongly urged that, in the interests of the Tamilian population, all the schools in the Tovala, Agastisvaram and Shencottah taluks and the Tiruvitamcode school in the Eraniel taluk should be converted into Tamil schools immediately. In the case of the other taluks, where the population consisted of more than 5,000 Tamil speaking men and women, Tamil schools should be opened in such numbers as were commensurate with the local needs and in such localities as contained a majority of Tamil speaking population.

In regard to teachers, the Member said that most of the existing Tamil schools were being taught by teachers trained in Malayalam schools, with Malayalam as their vernacular. It was an undoubted fact that Tamil pupils taught by non-Tamil-knowing teachers would make a mongrel mixture of the two vernaculars and be unable even to read and write either of the languages correctly. The natural purity of the Tamil language was thus liable to be gradually undermined by such a procedure. All the Malayalam certificate holders in the Tamil schools should, therefore, be at once removed to Malayalam schools and Tamil certificate holders should be appointed in their stead. If there was any dearth of such men, Tamil teachers should be imported from British India. He also said that the rules in the Education Code regarding the age and examination qualifications, so far as they related to Tamil lower grade vernacular Schools, could be considerably relaxed in the case of persons who passed the 55 years age limit and who did not possess the required examination qualifications prescribed thereunder, but who possessed general qualification of a better order than the present school leaving certificate holders and were capable of handling all the subjects prescribed for the lower grade vernacular classes more efficiently. If they were physically able, they might be exempted from the rigorous rules of the Code. If Government were pleased to open Tamil schools in taluks whose Tamil population justified the opening of such schools, the Member requested that the rules in the Education Code in regard to buildings might also be considerably relaxed. Some indulgence ought to be shown to persons who might be prepared to put up buildings for schools. In the case of Government schools also, the principle of modest and moderate buildings should be laid down. Sound education was more the result of sound teaching by efficient teachers than of equipment and environment.

The Member added that the organisation of Tamil schools and teachers necessitated the appointment of Tamil Graduate Inspectors. Government in their order No. E. 1958, dated 12th June 1918, stated that Tamil-knowing graduates were usually posted as Assistant Inspectors in Tamil Districts. That did not go far enough. The Inspectors of Tamil schools should be graduates who had passed in Tamil. Graduates whose optional language was Sanskrit or Malayalam and who yet knew Tamil could not make satisfactory Inspectors of Tamil schools, and, judged by that test, the present Inspectors had to be replaced by Tamil Graduates.

The Tamil branch of the Text Book Committee required to be strengthened by the addition of a few more Tamil scholars and the necessity of putting it under the Presidentship of a Tamil scholar was also worthy of consideration. The Member also suggested that Government might invite Tamil scholars to write text books on different sciences, etc., for use in Tamil schools. The Examination Boards too should be strengthened by the addition of Tamil scholars and separated from the Malayalam branch with a Tamil scholar as President.

The Member thanked the Government for the recent arrangements made by them for publishing Tamil translations of important matters in the Gazette. He suggested that it would be better, if the departmental translations also passed through the Tamil Translator so that they might be published in correct Tamil, and that the practice of publishing Malayalam matter in Tamil characters should be once for all done away with. About the translation itself, he observed that for a non-English-knowing Tamilian some portions might be difficult to understand. A literal

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

translation did not, very often, produce the ideas conveyed in the original. As such, it seemed advisable to allow the translator some latitude without in any way impairing the ideas of the original. The work of the translator had increased and was bound to increase still, and as such, the question of appointing a full-time Translator with assistants and peons if necessary was a matter for the consideration of Government, and their pay should be settled with due regard to the strenuous and responsible nature of the work of translation. The present piece-work system of payment was but a scanty recognition of the translator's work. The Tamil Translator ought to be given the same status as the Malayam Translator.

Another evil to which the Member invited the attention of Government was the existing practice of writing depositions in courts in Malayalam when it was given by the party in Tamil. That procedure led to much inconvenience and trouble, not to speak of miscarriage of justice. Depositions in courts, as a rule, should be ordered to be recorded in the language of the party giving it. Further, in all the courts and offices in the Tamil taluks, it was necessary that all the proceedings should be conducted in Tamil. The officers employed in Tamil taluks should be conversant with Tamil, if they were not already so, by passing a qualifying examination in Tamil as was done in the Madras Districts.

The next point dwelt upon by the Member related to the introduction of Tamil in the B. A. Course in the local College. He suggested that Tamil and Early South Indian History Group should be opened in the College. It would not be a costly affair. Lecturers and Tutors could be had by an adjustment of work among the existing staff of the College without going in for full-time outsiders. He therefore requested that early action be taken in the matter. In conclusion, the Member suggested that an advisory Tamil Board, consisting of Tamil scholars, official and non-official, the Chief Inspector of Vernacular Boys' Schools and the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, be constituted to advise the Director of Public Instruction in all matters pertaining to Tamil, and that, when chances of appointments, promotions, etc., came in, his community might have its just claims fully recognised.

He further requested that arrangements might be made for adding to the annual Administration Report a separate appendix showing statistics of the Tamil schools separately without mixing them up with Malayalam as was being done and that additional information be furnished on the following points :—

(a) Number of Tamil schools in each taluk, the higher grade vernacular schools and lower grade vernacular schools being shown separately ;

(b) Number of pupils (male and female) in each school ;

(c) Number of pupils whose mother-tongue was Tamil ; and

(d) Number of teachers in the aggregate and those possessing Tamil qualifying certificates.

Dewan's reply.—Your suggestions do not admit of an immediate reply. They will all be considered.

120. Grant of scholarships to the boys and girls of the Sambavar community.

Mr. M. A. Ratnaswami (Member, Nominated) as Secretary to the Travancore Sambavar Sangham, thanked the Government for nominating him as a Member of the Assembly to represent the interests of his community. He then described the present deplorable condition of Sambavars in the matter of education and submitted a memorandum for the consideration of Government, containing proposals for the grant of scholarships to the members of his community for English education. His proposals were that two scholarships of the value of Rs. 7 each in each taluk be granted to the boys and girls studying in the lower grade and higher grade English schools and two scholarships of the value of Rs. 15 each to the boys and girls who prosecuted their collegiate studies.

Dewan's reply—Noted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly